

NOV 27 2006

Serial No.: 10/524,107
Art Unit: 2682
Inventor: Masao YAMAMOTO

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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 were pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 have been cancelled, and claims 5, and 10 and 11 have been amended to recite the features of independent claim 1, claim 10 has been further amended to recite the features of claim 6, and the remaining claims have been amended for consistency. No new matter has been entered.. Accordingly, claims 2-5 and 7-13 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, two minor formalistic errors were identified in claims 6 and 13, and claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ichikawa et al. However, claims 5 and 10-13 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In an effort to expedite the prosecution of this application, allowable dependent claims 5, 10 and 11 have been rewritten to recite the features of claim 1, and for claim 10 also the features of claim 6. The minor errors appearing in the language of claims 6 and 13 has also been corrected. As a result, it is believed that the claims should now be in immediate condition for allowance.

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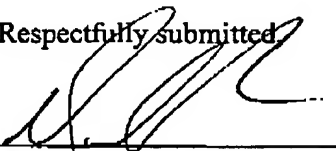
Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted

Date: November 27, 2006

By:


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Attachments: None

LDE/dkp

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